

REMARKS

In the non-final Office Action, dated July 10, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,337 (hereinafter "MARCO") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,870,849 (hereinafter "CALLON") and U.S. Patent No. 6,859,433 (hereinafter "CHEN"); rejected claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of CALLON and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032871 (hereinafter "MALAN"); rejected claims 10-13, 15 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of MALAN; rejected claims 14 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of MALAN and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,947,442 (hereinafter "SATO"); rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of MALAN and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,519,264 (hereinafter "CARR"); rejected claims 24-27, 29, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO; rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of SATO; rejected claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of CARR; rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of SATO; and rejected claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by MARCO. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 19-22 and 33-36 and the allowance of claims 39 and 40.

By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 10 to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 19, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claims 16 and 20 have been amended to depend from claim 10. Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the

subject matter of dependent claim 33, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claims 30 and 34 have been amended to depend from claim 24. Claim 40 has been amended to improve form. Claims 1-9, 15, 19, 29 and 33 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 41-48 have been added. No new matter has been added by the present amendment. Claims 10-14, 16-18, 20-28, 30-32 and 34-48 are currently pending in the application. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of pending claims 10-14, 16-18, 23-28, 30-32 and 37 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In paragraph 3, the Office Action rejects pending claims 10-13, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of MALAN. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 19, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claim 10, therefore, should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 11-13, 17 and 18, which depend from claim 10, should now also be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 4, the Office Action rejects pending claims 14 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of MALAN and further in view of SATO. Claims 14 and 23 depend from claim 10, which is now in condition for allowance. Claims 14 and 23, therefore, should now also be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 5, the Office Action rejects pending claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO in view of MALAN and further in view of CARR.

Claim 16 depends from claim 10, which is now in condition for allowance. Claim 16, therefore, should now also be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 6, the Office Action rejects pending claims 24-27, 31 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO. Claim 24 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 33, which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable. Claim 24, therefore, should now be in condition for allowance. Claims 25-27, 31 and 32, which depend from claim 24, should now also be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 7, the Office Action rejects pending claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO and further in view of SATO. Claim 28 depends from claim 24, which is now in condition for allowance. Claim 28, therefore, should now also be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 8, the Office Action rejects pending claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO and further in view of CARR. Claim 30 depends from claim 24, which is now in condition for allowance. Claim 30, therefore, should now also be in condition for allowance.

In paragraph 9, the Office Action rejects pending claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over MARCO and further in view of SATO. Claim 37 depends from claim 24, which is now in condition for allowance. Claim 37, therefore, should now also be in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In paragraph 11, the Office Action rejects claim 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by MARCO. Applicants note that claim 38 was canceled in the previous amendment filed May 15, 2006. The rejection of this claim is, therefore, moot.

New Claims

New claims 41-48 depend from claim 40, which has been allowed by the Examiner. Claims 41-48, therefore, should also be in condition for allowance.

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Reply to Office Action of July 10, 2006

Docket No.: BBNT-P01-364

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. BBNT-P01-364 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 29, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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